

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-13, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-38, and 41-44 are pending. Of those, Claims 1, 9, 13, 21, 23, 26, 33, 34, 38, 41, and 42 have been amended. Claims 43-45 are new. In an office action dated April 19, 2005, the Examiner noted the allowability of a number of dependent claims. The amendments simply incorporate the content of those allowable dependent claims into their respective base claims. Claims 2-7, 14-18, 22, 24, 25, 27-32, 39, and 40 have been cancelled.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS: Claim 2 has been deleted.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §112: The Examiner rejected Claim 18 under §112. Claim 18 has been cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §101: The Examiner rejected Claims 23-25 and 42 under §101 as being non-statutory. Amendments have been made addressing the Examiner's concerns.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102: The Examiner rejected Claims 13, 17, 18, and 38 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,529,214 issued to Chase.

Claims 13 and 38 have been amended to incorporate limitations found in Claims 14, 15, and 16 (now cancelled). The Examiner has noted the allowability of Claims 14, 15, and 16. As such Claims 13 and 38 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102: The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11, 21, 22, 26-28, 32-34, 36, and 41 as being unpatentable over USPN 5,949,438 issued to Cyman.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations found in Claims 14, 15, and 16 (now cancelled). The Examiner has noted the allowability of Claims 14,

15, and 16. As such Claim 1 is in condition for allowance as are Claims 8-12 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claims 21, 38, and 41 have been amended to incorporate limitations found in Claims 14, 15, and 16 (now cancelled). The Examiner has noted the allowability of Claims 14, 15, and 16. As such Claims 21, 38 and 41 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 26 has been amended to incorporate limitations found in Claims 14, 15, and 16 (now cancelled). The Examiner has noted the allowability of Claims 14, 15, and 16. As such Claim 26 is in condition for allowance as are Claims 33-37 which depend from Claim 26.

Claims 27, 28, and 32 have been cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 10, 12, 19, 20, 35, and 37 under §103 citing various references.


Claims 10 and 12 depend from Claim 1 and includes all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claims 10 and 12.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from Claim 13 and includes all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 13 is patentable, so are Claims 19 and 20.

Claims 35 and 37 depend from Claim 26 and includes all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 26 is patentable, so are Claims 35 and 37.

CONCLUSION: Claims 1, 8-13, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-38, and 41-44 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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